

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A device for actuating small keys on miniature keyboards, input tablets, and the like, comprising:

a dome having an axis, a base surface, an axial opening located opposite the base surface, an axial cavity that tapers down from the base surface to the axial opening, an axial dimension measured from the base surface to the axial opening, and a profile that is rotationally symmetric about the axis, the dome being formed from a soft plastic material such that the dome is adaptable to a fingertip, wherein the base surfaces of the dome and the pin are co-planar to define a single contact surface for contacting the device with the fingertip;

a pin having an axis, a base surface, and a tip, the pin being located in and coaxial with the axial cavity of the dome, and the pin extending from the base surface of the dome through the axial opening of the dome such that the pin has an axial dimension that is greater than the axial dimension of the dome, and the tip of the pin extends axially beyond the axial opening of the dome; and

an adhesive layer joined to the base surface of the dome for adhering and securing the dome to the fingertip, the adhesive layer permitting repeated removal and rebonding with respect to the fingertip.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer is circular and covers the entire base surfaces of both the dome and the pin, and wherein the adhesive layer is perforated for absorbing deposits of perspiration on the fingertip.

15. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the pin is formed from a material that is harder than the soft plastic material of the dome such that the pin is resilient for actuating keys, and wherein the dome is pressed back onto the fingertip during operation.

16. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the pin has an exterior profile that is contoured to a shape of the axial cavity of the dome.

17. (currently amended) A device for actuating small keys on miniature keyboards, input tablets, and the like, comprising:

a dome having an axis, a perimeter, a base surface extending around the perimeter, a tip located opposite the base surface, an outer wall, an inner wall, an outer cavity located between the outer and inner walls adjacent to the perimeter, an inner cavity located radially inward of the inner wall relative to the axis, the inner cavity having an axial dimension that is greater than an axial dimension of the outer cavity, the entire dome being formed from a single material such that the dome molds to a fingertip but is hard enough for the tip to actuate keys, and each of the inner and outer cavities forming a vacuum between the dome and the fingertip, wherein each of the perimeter, the base surface, the tip, the outer wall, the inner wall, the outer cavity, and the inner cavity are rotationally symmetric about the axis, and further wherein the base surface and a portion of the inner wall are co-planar for contacting the fingertip; and

an adhesive layer joined to the base surface of the dome for adhering the dome, along with the vacuums formed by the inner and outer cavities, to the fingertip, the adhesive layer permitting repeated removal and rebonding with respect to the fingertip.

18-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer is circular and covers only the base surface of the dome, such that the inner cavity, the inner wall, and the outer cavity are exposed for direct contact with the fingertip.

21. (currently amended) A device for actuating small keys on miniature keyboards, input tablets, and the like, comprising:

a dome having an axis, a perimeter, an annular base surface located adjacent to the perimeter, a tip located opposite the base surface, a convex exterior, an axial cavity that is concave in shape and tapers down from the base surface toward the tip, the axial cavity having an axial dimension that is less than an axial dimension measured from the base surface to the tip,

and a profile that is rotationally symmetric about the axis, the dome being formed from a material that is adaptable to a fingertip, wherein the base surfaces of the dome and the inlay are co-planar to define a single surface for contact with the fingertip;

an inlay located in and coaxial with the axial cavity, the inlay having an axis, and a base surface, the inlay extending from the base surface of the dome and filling the entire axial cavity of the dome, such that the inlay has an axial dimension that is less than the axial dimension measured from the base surface of the dome to the tip of the dome, the inlay being compressible such that a vacuum is formed between the dome and the fingertip; and

an adhesive layer joined to the base surface of the dome for adhering and, along with the vacuum formed by the inlay, securing the dome to the fingertip, the adhesive layer permitting repeated removal and rebonding with respect to the fingertip; wherein the adhesive layer is circular and covers only the base surface of the dome, such that the base surface of the inlay is exposed for direct contact with the fingertip.

22. (previously presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the inlay is lenticular in shape and formed from a felt.
23. (canceled)
24. (previously presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the inlay has an exterior profile that is contoured to a shape of the axial cavity of the dome.
25. (canceled)